

PATENT SPECIFICATION

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(54) OXYTETRACYCLINE SOLUTION FOR PARENTERAL PERORAL AND LOCAL ADMINISTRATION AND PROCESSES FOR THE PRODUCTION THEREOF

(71) We, CIBA-GEIGY AG, a Swiss body corporate, of Basle, Switzerland, do hereby declare the invention, for which we pray that a patent may be granted to us, and the method by which it is to be performed, to be particularly described in and by the following statement:—

The present invention relates to an aqueous oxytetracycline solution for parenteral, peroral and local administration, which contains, in addition to the active substance present as base or as salt, polyethylene glycol, a soluble magnesium salt, a base, preservatives and a buffer system, and to a process for producing this solution.

An essential prerequisite for the practical applicability of oxytetracycline solutions is their chemical and physical stability with regard to storage and transport with retainment of good compatibility.

To attain this end, several attempts known from the literature have been made, and proposals for solving this problem have been put forward. In British Patent Specification No. 894,619 there is recommended, besides the use of magnesium salts as complex-formers for oxytetracycline, inter alia, polyethylene glycol 300 as solubility-promoting agent with a water content of up to 30 per cent by weight for the preparation of oxytetracycline solutions. U.S. Patent Specification No. 3,017,323 describes the formation of metal-ion complexes of oxytetracycline in polyethylene glycol 400 with concentrations of up to 70 per cent by weight, but likewise with the limitation of the water content to 0 to 25 per cent by weight, the reason given being that higher proportions of water clearly impair the stability of oxytetracycline solutions. A further suggestion is made in the German Offenlegungsschrift No. 2,001,604, according to which there are to be used for the preparations, in addition to the active substance, inter alia, polyethylene glycols having molecular weights of 1000 to 20,000 with a water content of 60 to 80 per cent by weight.

The oxytetracycline solutions containing

polyethylene glycols and water hitherto known from the literature vary considerably with respect to the stated ingredients. There are suggested on the one hand solutions with low concentrations of polyethylene glycol of higher molecular weight in addition to a high proportion of water, on the other hand solutions with higher concentrations of polyethylene glycol but of low molecular weight and with a low proportion of water. These differing concentration conditions are closely connected with the known secondary effects of solubility-promoting polyethylene glycols. Thus, the polyethylene glycols of higher molecular weight are desirable, for reasons of toxicity, only in lower concentration. The inevitably resulting high proportion of water caused in the case of prior formulations in general a considerable lowering of the stability of the solutions. The polyethylene glycols of lower molecular weight, known to be less toxic, have however hitherto been used in higher concentrations, because the aim was to thus obtain an adequate solubility of the active substance as well as an improvement in the stability of the solution; this on the other hand resulted, on account of the occurrence of high osmotic pressure, in an unfavourable influencing of the compatibility, particularly in the case of parenteral administration. Reference is expressly made to these casualties both in the U.S.A. Patent Specification No. 3,017,323 and in the German Offenlegungsschrift No. 2,001,604. The oxytetracycline solutions suggested in the stated German Offenlegungsschrift do contain—as already mentioned—high water contents of 60–80 per cent by weight; they render possible however the use only of polyethylene glycols of which the molecular weight must not fall below 1000. A further disadvantage of the oxytetracycline formulations that have hitherto become known arises from the fact that their storage stability, especially in the non-cooled condition, leaves much to be desired.

It has been possible with the oxytetracycline

solutions according to the invention to overcome, in a surprising manner, both the prejudice of the experts to the formulation of oxytetracycline solutions with polyethylene glycols of low molecular weight of essentially below 1000 with, at the same time, a high content of water and the disadvantages, particularly with regard to stability, connected with the known preparations. Thus, in producing the oxytetracycline solutions according to the invention, there are used, in addition to a water content of up to 80 per cent by weight, as solubility-promoting agents, non-toxic polyethylene glycols having a molecular weight of 300 to 600. The solutions contain in detail oxytetracycline in the form of the free base or as salt, a soluble magnesium salt, polyethylene glycol, preservatives, a base and a buffer system, with a water content of 40 to 80 per cent by weight. They are characterised in that the polyethylene glycol has a mean molecular weight of 300 to 600, preferably 400.

The process of the invention for the production of oxytetracycline solutions is characterised in that oxytetracycline is suspended in the form of the free base or as salt in polyethylene glycol having a mean molecular weight of 300 to 600, preferably 400, and there are then added, with the passing through of nitrogen, aqueous magnesium salt solution, a base, a preservative, and a buffer solution consisting of tris - (hydroxymethyl) - aminomethane hydrochloride and water.

With the use of oxytetracycline in the salt form, the hydrochloride may be employed.

The preferred magnesium salt is magnesium chloride.

Molar ratios of 1:1 to 1:4 for oxytetracycline to magnesium salt have a favourable effect on the properties of the solutions.

The polyethylene glycols used are commercial types of pharmaceutical purity (according to DAB or PH VI, or of an analogous quality). The polyethylene glycol having a molecular weight of 400 has proved particularly safe from a toxicological point of view.

Suitable as a base are NaOH and ethanolamine, while sodium formaldehyde sulphonylate or sodium meta-bisulphite can be used as a preservative. Also suitable is ascorbic acid alone or in combination with sodium meta-bisulphite.

Tris - (hydroxymethyl) - aminomethane - hydrochloride is used as a buffer system, as a result of which a favourable effect on the stability of the solutions is achieved.

The oxytetracycline solutions of the invention are chemically and physically very stable, so that even at room temperature they are storable over a prolonged period of time. No impairment of compatibility on parenteral administration was detected. The oxytetracycline solutions according to the invention moreover render possible, without disadvantages, the formulation of active-substance con-

centrations of 1 to 12 per cent by weight. As far as the higher concentrations are concerned there accrue, particularly in the case of veterinary medicine, substantial advantages. It is thus possible, since the administered dose is usually related to the body weight of the animal to be treated, to lower the frequency of administration, which leads to a reduction of the medication stress.

Regarding formulations constituting for the invention a particularly favourable embodiment, the concentration of the individual constituents is in the following ranges:

oxytetracycline or			
oxytetracycline-HCl	4	—11%	80
polyethylene glycol	18	—28%	
MgCl ₂	2.5	— 5.5%	
ethanolamine	1.3	— 4.3%	
preservative	0.4	— 0.5%	
tris-(hydroxymethyl)-			85
aminomethane	0.10—	0.35%	
0.1N HCl	2.0	— 8.5%	
H ₂ O (total)	48	—75%	

The invention is illustrated by the following examples:

Example 1

5.4 g of oxytetracycline hydrochloride is suspended in 20.0 g of polyethylene glycol 400. There are subsequently added, with stirring and passing through of N₂, 30.6 g of 10% magnesium chloride solution, 23.75 g of 10% ethanolamine solution, 0.5 g of sodium formaldehyde sulphonylate and 27.67 g of buffer solution consisting of 0.167 g of trishydroxymethylaminomethane, 4.192 g of 0.1 N HCl and 23.311 g of water. The pH of this solution is 8.6 and the water content 72.23%. The solution has an active-substance content of 54 mg of oxytetracycline HCl/ml.

Example 2

5.4 g of oxytetracycline hydrochloride is suspended in 25 g of polyethylene glycol 400. There are then added, with stirring and passing through of N₂, 30.6 g of 10% magnesium chloride solution, 22.4 g of 10% ethanolamine solution, 0.5 g of sodium formaldehyde sulphonylate and 23.0 g of buffer solution consisting of 0.139 g of trishydroxymethylaminomethane, 3.48 g of 0.1 N HCl and 19.381 g of water. The pH of this solution is 8.5 and the water content 67%. The solution has an active-substance content of 54 mg of oxytetracycline HCl/ml.

Example 3

0.351 g of trishydroxymethylaminomethane is dissolved in 48.862 g of water, whereupon 8.787 g of 0.1 N HCl is added. In 50 g of this buffer solution there is then added 5.5 g of magnesium chloride. In the remaining 8.0 g of buffer solution, there is separately dis-

5 solved 0.5 g of sodium formaldehyde sul-
phoxylate. These solutions are subsequently
added successively, with the passing through
of N₂, to a suspension of 10.8 g of oxytetra-
cycline, 30.0 g of polyethylene glycol 400 and
4.48 g of ethanolamine. There is obtained a
clear yellow solution having a pH-value of
8.5 and a water content of 48.8%. The active-
substance content is 10.8 mg of oxytetra-
cycline/ml.

Example 4

15 6.21 g of oxytetracycline HCl is suspended
in 20.0 g of polyethylene glycol 400, where-
upon there are added, with stirring and pass-
ing through of nitrogen, 35.20 g of 10% mag-
nesium chloride solution, 25.5 g of 10%
ethanolamine solution, 0.5 g of sodium form-
aldehyde sulfoxylate and 19.23 g of tris-
buffer solution. The last-mentioned consists of
20 0.12 g of trishydroxymethylaminomethane,
2.49 g of HCl (0.1 N) and 16.62 g of water.
There is formed a light-yellow solution having
a pH-value of 8.6, a water content of 71.3%
and an active-substance content of 62.1
25 mg/ml.

Example 5

30 5.50 g of oxytetracycline base is suspended
in 20.0 g of polyethylene glycol 400. There
are then added to this suspension, with stir-
ring and passing through of nitrogen, 35.2 g
of 10% magnesium chloride solution, 15.8 g
of 10% ethanolamine solution and 0.5 g of
sodium formaldehyde sulfoxylate. The solu-
tion is made up to 100 ml with 29.35 g of
35 tris-buffer solution containing 0.18 g of tris-
hydroxymethylaminomethane, 3.81 g of 0.1 N
HCl and 25.36 g of water. The clear light-
yellow solution has a pH-value of 8.6, a water
content of 71.2% and an active-substance con-
40 tent of 55.0 mg/ml of oxytetracycline base.

Example 6

45 5.75 g of oxytetracycline base is suspended
in 20.0 g of polyethylene glycol 400. There are
then added to this suspension, with passing
through of nitrogen and with stirring, 35.2 g
of 10% magnesium chloride solution, 16.6 g
of 10% ethanolamine solution, 0.5 g of sodium
formaldehyde sulfoxylate and 28.91 g of
tris-buffer solution consisting of 0.18 g of tris-
hydroxymethylaminomethane, 3.76 g of 0.1 N
50 HCl and 24.97 g of water. The clear light-
yellow solution has a pH-value of 8.6, a water
content of 71.59%, and an active-substance
content of 57.5 mg/ml of oxytetracycline base.

Example 7

55 To 9.45 g of a 33.3% solution of ethanol-
amine there are added 11.0 g of a 50% solu-
tion of magnesium chloride, 0.5 g of sodium
formaldehyde sulfoxylate and 30.0 g of poly-
ethylene glycol 400. In this solution there is
60 then dissolved, with passing through of nitro-

gen and with stirring, 11.0 g of oxytetracycline
base. The solution is subsequently made up to
100 ml with 47.97 g of tris-buffer solution.
The tris-buffer solution consists of 0.29 g of
65 trishydroxymethylaminomethane, 6.24 g of 0.1
N hydrochloric acid and 41.44 g of water.
The clear light-yellow solution has a pH-value
of 8.5, a water content of 53.2% and an
active-substance content of 110 mg of oxy-
70 tetracycline base/ml.

The water to be used in the Examples
should be pyrogen-free.

WHAT WE CLAIM IS:—

1. Aqueous oxytetracycline solution for
parenteral, peroral or local administration,
which solution has a water content of 40 to
80 per cent by weight and contains oxytetra-
cycline in the form of the free base or as a
salt, a soluble magnesium salt, polyethylene
glycol having a mean molecular weight of
300 to 600, preservative, base and a buffer. 75

2. Oxytetracycline solution according to
Claim 1, wherein the polyethylene glycol has a
mean molecular weight of about 400. 80

3. Oxytetracycline solution according to
Claim 1 or 2 which contains 20 to 30% of
the polyethylene glycol. 85

4. Oxytetracycline solution according to any
one of Claims 1 to 3 wherein the molar ratio
of oxytetracycline to magnesium salt is 1:1
to 1:4. 90

5. Oxytetracycline solution according to any
one of Claims 1 to 4 wherein the magnesium
salt is magnesium chloride. 95

6. Oxytetracycline solution according to any
one of Claims 1 to 5 which contains (tris-
hydroxymethyl) - aminomethane - hydrochlor-
ide as buffer.

7. Oxytetracycline solution according to any
one of Claims 1 to 6 which has a pH between
8.0 and 9.0. 100

8. Oxytetracycline solution according to
Claim 7 wherein the pH is between 8.5 to
8.9. 105

9. Oxytetracycline solution according to
Claim 1 which contains 4 to 11% oxytetra-
cycline in the form of the free base or as
the hydrochloride, 18 to 28% of the poly-
ethylene glycol, 2.5% to 5.5% magnesium
chloride, 1.3 to 4.3% ethanolamine, 0.4 to
0.5% preservative, 0.1 to 0.35% tris-(hydroxy-
methyl)-aminomethane, 2.0 to 8.5% 0.1 N
hydrochloric acid and a total of 48 to 75%
water, all percentages being by weight. 110

10. Aqueous oxytetracycline solution for
parenteral, peroral or local administration sub-
stantially as described in any one of the fore-
going Examples. 115

11. Process for preparing an aqueous oxy-
tetracycline solution for parenteral, peroral or
local administration as claimed in any one of
Claims 1 to 9 which process comprises sus-
pending oxytetracycline in the form of the 120

- free base or as a salt in polyethylene glycol having a mean molecular weight of 300 to 600, and then, while passing nitrogen through the suspension, adding an aqueous solution of a magnesium salt, preservative, base and buffer solution.
- 5 12. Process for preparing an aqueous oxytetracycline solution for parenteral, peroral or local administration substantially as described in any one of the foregoing Examples.
- 10 13. Aqueous oxytetracycline solution for parenteral, peroral or local administration prepared by the process claimed in Claim 11 or 12.

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